GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3062
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
SPURT IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a note of spurt in smuggling activities in the country in the recent past, especially in gold, sophiscated fire arms, explosives and foreign/fake currency etc;

(b) if so, the number of consignments intercepted/seized during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the value of such smuggled goods/consignments seized/intercepted during the said period;

(c) the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this trend?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a), (b) & (c): Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be said with certainty that there is spurt in smuggling activities in the country in the recent past, especially in gold, sophiscated fire arms, explosives and foreign/fake currency etc. However, incidents of smuggling continue to be noticed. The number of seizure cases and value of goods seized by the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and number of persons arrested in theconnection, during last 2 years and current year, i.e., 1999-2000. 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 (upto June, 2001) are as follows:-

Year	Seizure cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in Crore)	No. of persons arrested
1999-2000	41018	1298.71	712
2000-2001	38393	437.54	669
2001-2002	8943	144.88	173

(Upto June,2001)

Penal action and prosecution is initiated against the persons involved under Customs Act and detention under COFEPOSA is also considered in deserving cases.

(d): All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorateof Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods.